



# View from the Blackdown Hills

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Issue 87 March 2012

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in your Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

# RBL AWARDED FOR A 'STERLING JOB'

By CHARLIE TRAYNOR  
blackdown@findlenews.co.uk

## Work continues despite club closure

A ROYAL British Legion (RBL) branch in the Blackdown Hills has been awarded the Crediton Cup by Devon County RBL.

The cup was awarded to the Honiton Branch on Saturday, January 7th in recognition of the branch's "initiative and sterling work that continues despite the closure of the club".

As previously reported, the Royal British Legion Club in Honiton closed last year and its role as a meeting point for people in the community has made the RBL's task of honouring Remembrance day and raising money all the more difficult according to committee member Chris Sinden.

Mr Sinden said: "The closure of the club had a big impact on the branch but it has managed to continue despite the closure.

"We've got to work much harder to keep our profile in

Honiton."

Mr Sinden also told how the branch is looking at ways to maintain its connection with the Honiton community by setting up their own website, putting up a notice board and handing out flyers.

Despite the closure of the club, Honiton RBL was still able to raise a significant sum of money with their poppy appeal last year which Mr Sinden put down to "continuing in the face of adversity".

When asked about the possibility of reopening the club Mr Sinden commented that the club was an uneconomical model and like many other clubs and pubs across the country simply couldn't support itself.

However he did add: "When the site is closed and sold we can think about looking for a small place. But that won't be for two or three years. We're looking at the long term."

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View from the

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# Four-legged friends help with woodland



◆ THE Woodland Association is sponsoring a horse-logging taster day on Thursday, April 26th. Kate Mobbs-Morgan is pictured with her horse, Kipp. Kate will be bringing two of her horses to the taster day. For further details, visit [www.woodbiz.co.uk](http://www.woodbiz.co.uk)

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# WORKING OUR WOODLANDS

**Blackdown and East Devon  
Woodland Association with  
John Greenshields**

THE new project set up in the Blackdown Hills and east Devon area is funded by Making it Local, the Forestry Commission and the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with the Woodland Association as a partner.

This project will help to carry the legacy from Working our Woodlands and is called Woodbiz Woodlands. It will provide free advisory visits to woodland owners. It also will hopefully get more local timber used in local products, by linking saw mills to producers, and helping wood owners to value their timber. There is scope for volunteers to be used in unmanaged woodland, but only where contractors were not to be used.

The association is sponsoring a horse logging taster day on April 26th. Kate Mobbs-Morgan will bring two of her wonderful four-legged friends down and put them to work, also there will be a chance to have a go yourself. See the Woodbiz website for details at [www.woodbiz.co.uk](http://www.woodbiz.co.uk).

The Woodbiz Woodlands project has just had its first 'living tree grading' day, and very successful it was too. Most of the day was taken up with grading and valuing living trees.

Marcus Tribe was one of the attendees, the man who lives in a wood near Tiverton, and has been on television a lot, and is a very interesting character. He sustains his wood fuel supply solely from hedgerows and uses the material from his wood to make other products and charcoal.

The Blackdown Hills Woodland Fair will be on July 7th this year — not long now. There is already great interest from new stall holders and attractions.

The Blackdown Hills Trust together with the Beef, Butterflies and Trees project, is hoping to bring some of the Long Horn Cattle that have been grazing in the Neroche Forest (movement restrictions allowing).

There will be lots of things for the kids to do, with local food and products. The pole climbers will be back along with the local contractors competitions, there will be four horse loggers this year and a Blackdown Hills woodland art marquee. It is your woodland show so if you think we should do something we have not already thought of then get in touch and we will see what we can do.

**To contact John call  
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# BBC Countryfile's Matt hits the hills



◆ **FOREGROUND**, Martin Turner (with stick) talks to Countryfile's Matt Baker and George Pidgeon, right, whilst BBC crews film in the background

## Baker wins top prize in hedge contest

By **RICHARD HOOKER**  
Blackdown Hills Hedge Association

BBC Television's Countryfile visited the Blackdown Hills on Friday, January 20th to film a programme about the area.

The Blackdown Hills Hedge Association (BHHA) were their hosts in the village of Staple

Fitzpaine.

Presenter Matt Baker was taught the arts of hedgelaying and hedgerow chair making by members of the BHHA.

The hedgelaying was set up in the form of a competition between two teams.

Matt and BHHA stalwart George Pidgeon in one corner and, supposedly novice

hedgelayers, Tess Stone and Tom Applin in the other.

After two hours' hard work the committee of Martin Turner, Roger Parris and Colin Risdon stepped in to judge the results.

After due deliberation they declared the Baker-Pidgeon team the winners. This was a slight surprise as, unknown to Matt,

both Tess and Tom are champion

hedgelayers and their finished length of hedge could well have provoked a stewards enquiry in some competitions.

But as Martin, Roger and Colin are all current or previous winners of the National hedgelaying championships there was little dissent.

After the hedgelaying it was Ivor Hancock's turn to teach

Matt the skill of hedgerow chair making.

Green hazel is cut from the hedge to make a sturdy and attractive piece of rustic furniture.

At the end of the day Matt left with his chair which will return with him to the north east of England. The programme aired on Sunday, February 5th.

## Funding allocated for sustainable bids

A NEW allocation of funds for community groups and businesses to deliver sustainable projects in the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) will be put in place by the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) after April.

Every year the AONB's bid for money from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to fund sustainable improvements in rural areas and if a group, businesses or, in some cases, an individual can demonstrate that their project will benefit the landscape, environment and be sustainable in the process then staff at the Blackdown Hills AONB could help you secure funding.

In the past the Blackdown Hills AONB has funded an Artisans' Trail, Harvesties oral history project and the Blackdowns Woodland Fair.

If you have a project you think would benefit from the SDF then contact the Blackdown Hills AONB team on 01404 46663.

There is also a new round of funding with up to £25,000 in capital grants being made available from the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) in April and May. For more information visit [www.rdpnetwork.defra.gov.uk](http://www.rdpnetwork.defra.gov.uk).

## Timber and fencing days for rural needs

**MOLE Valley Farmers** has stocked over a million fencing stakes to cater for the demand from farmers, contractors, smallholders and horse owners this spring.

As the UK's largest agricultural and rural retailer, Mole Valley Farmers is hosting a series of timber and fencing days at each of its nine south west branches.

Customers will have the opportunity to stock up and take advantage of massive savings on a wide range of timber, fencing and related agricultural products as well as having the chance to talk to specialist suppliers and staff.

There will also be a free prize draw to win a Kubota RT900GP utility vehicle worth over £10,000.

Jonathan Skeggs, Mole Valley Farmers Product Manager, said: "Early indications for this season are that materials such as stakes will again be scarce and therefore likely to increase in price as the season commences.

"Simply, if you have fencing to do this spring, buy early."

The timber and fencing day will be in Cullompton on Friday, March 9th from 10am to 4pm.

## Warning over doorstepping gold diggers

**RESIDENTS** in a Blackdown Hills town and the surrounding areas are being urged to be extremely cautious if approached by doorstep gold dealers.

Police officers issued a warning to Honiton residents after a man was allowed into a home in Kings Terrace on Tuesday, January 31st.

Police said that a man knocked on the door, offering money for broken jewellery.

After the resident said that she may have some broken jewellery, the man was allowed inside, before taking himself on a tour of the house.

The suspect then located three heavy gold chain links which the victim refused

to sell and then man left.

But later on the victim discovered that the items the man had looked at were missing.

A police spokesman said: "Police are aware that there have been numerous leaflet drops locally relating to gold buyers, offering 'top prices'.

"We suggest that anyone who has received one of these leaflets does not act upon the offer, and certainly does not let anyone into their home, and to contact police if they are suspicious about anyone going door-to-door offering to buy gold."

Anyone with any information that could help investigators is asked to call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, quoting crime reference KH/12/98.

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## Kids' £1k workout

THE children of Offwell Primary School have raised a total of £1,055 for NSPCC through something known as a big workout.

The school was visited by the NSPCC's Charlie Francis during a recent assembly after which they engaged in activities such as skipping, jumping and hopping.

Sponsorship was sought from friends and family - and headteacher Claire Cowland said: "This was an incredible effort by the children and their families."

"This money will go straight to the NSPCC to fund initiatives such as Childline."

"I think the children have raised so much money because it is a charity close to their hearts being children themselves."

◆ SOME of the pupils are pictured with Charlie Francis, of NSPCC



## Cottages win 'excellence' awards duo

EAST Devon has once again proved its hospitality credentials with two holiday cottage complexes being recognised at the national MyCottageHoliday Excellence Awards.

Higher Wiscombe in Southleigh picked up two awards winning Best South West Property as well as Overall Winner.

Loma Handyside, co-owner of Higher Wiscombe with Alistair Handyside, said: "It is fantastic to be recognised in this way, an online national award based on guest experience at your holiday cottages is a brilliant accolade. The team at Higher Wiscombe is delighted and thank all our wonderful guests."

Andy Brown, founder of MyCottageHoliday, said: "The standard of self-catering accommodation in the UK improves every year. Holidaymakers expect quirkiness, exemplary cleanliness, mod cons, views and luxury. To become the MyCottageHoliday Excellence Awards cottage of the year you must deliver all this and more. Alistair and Loma at Higher Wiscombe stood out from a large group of strong contenders by adding green credentials to the mix."

There are more than 5,000 cottages listed on the MyCottageHoliday site and before a property can be considered for an award they must have received a minimum of 5 independent guest reviews over the previous 12 months. The finalists and winners were judged by a panel of the site's editorial team based on the reviews submitted by guests.

Contact the editorial team  
**blackdown**  
**@tindlenews.co.uk**

# Christian follows in naval father's steps

By ANDERS LARSSON  
anders@tindlenews.co.uk

A 24-YEAR-OLD who hails from Hemyock has embarked on the Initial Warfare Officer (Foundation) course at Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC) in Dartmouth.

Sub Lieutenant Christian Lowe started the course after passing the initial phase of officer training in a bid to become a warfare officer in the Royal Navy.

The initial phase of training culminated in December last year when the passing-out parade salute was taken by Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope, The First Sea Lord.

Christian joined the Royal Navy in May last year, following in the footsteps of his serving father Commodore Tim Lowe.

Before that, Christian had gained a degree in philosophy at Reading University and worked as a recruitment consultant for Venn Group before making his career change.

The current course sets numerous challenges and there is significant emphasis on developing leadership skills throughout the training in addition to academic work.

Ten weeks have been spent at sea in the amphibious assault ship, HMS Albion, which was operating predominately in UK waters.

The time onboard gave the opportunity to gain experience across all specialisations and departments in an operational warship.

Commenting on the first phase of training, Christian said: "Although the training has been really challenging I have thoroughly enjoyed it and look forward to joining the fleet soon".



◆ SUB Lieutenant Christian Lowe

## Event for the self-employed workers

THE Blackdown Hills Business Association has worked with the East Devon Chamber of Commerce to put on an event for the self-employed at Bickton College from 4pm to 8pm on Thursday, March 8th.

Workshops will cover becoming self-employed, tendering for contracts, quality and environmental management systems.

There will also be a free buffet. For more information email [info@bhba.org.uk](mailto:info@bhba.org.uk).

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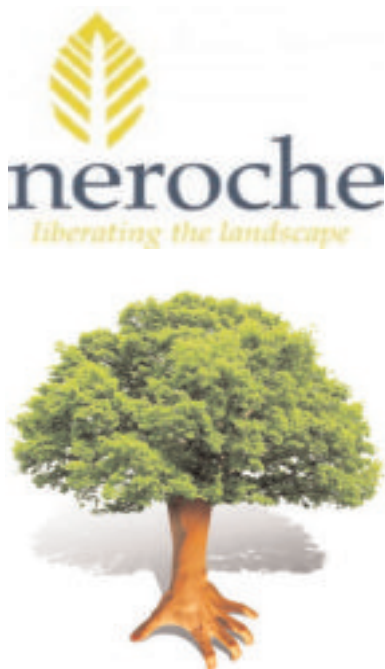


◆ A PICTURESQUE sweeping view across the Blackdown Hills, by Rose Siwek

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Much of the experience from the much-praised Neroche Scheme has been distilled into a series of high-quality films by filmmaker Justin Owen. Many of them can now be viewed on the Neroche channel on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/NerocheScheme?ob=0>, with more to follow.

Justin has worked with the Neroche partnership for four years, documenting its progress and capturing the views and many stakeholders along the way. Most recently, he made a record of The Woodland Edge Conference, which took place in the forest at the very end of the Neroche Scheme's five year Lottery-funded life. The videos from the conference provide a catalogue of some of the presentations from the key speakers, plus footage of some of the discussion sessions out in the woods.

Meanwhile the film entitled 'Neroche - The Journey' provides a 14-minute overview of the Neroche Scheme, its ethos and its achievements.

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# Council thrilled with superfast broadband bid

By **ANDERS LARSSON**  
blackdown@hindlenews.co.uk

**A FASTER broadband campaign in the Blackdown Hills area got off to a great start by achieving a quarter of its target in just four days.**

The Connecting Devon and Somerset Superfast Broadband campaign amassed 2,500 registrations during the initial four days, and organisers are hopeful of reaching the 10,000 target.

Internet and email users in Somerset can support the campaign by answering a survey, which will be used to prove that there is a strong

demand for superfast broadband and persuade private broadband companies to invest in Somerset and Devon.

The Connecting Devon and Somerset is a joint venture involving Somerset County Council, Devon County Council and other local authorities.

Somerset County Council member David Hall said: "We are very thrilled by the response so far and I'd like to thank all those that have responded."

"This is tremendous news and shows that there is substantial demand for superfast broadband. It's vital we have the whole picture though, so we need to ask as many people as

possible to take part.

"It's a short survey and free to take part — people can either log on to [www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk](http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk) or call 0844 4636887 to contribute to the survey."

"As part of the research, the speed of your current broadband will be measured, so you know what you're actually getting at the moment."

"We also want to know about what you use the net for at present and what you could do if it was faster and more reliable."

"It's very simple and we'll talk you through it — just ring or click to sign up."

• So far, the Connecting Devon and

Somerset programme has secured £31 million of funding from the government agency Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) and both Somerset and Devon county councils are putting in up to £10 million each.

Further investment is needed from private companies to make sure the target to provide 85 per cent of the county with superfast broadband by 2015 and 100 per cent by 2020, is achieved.

• The programme aims to provide 100 per cent broadband coverage of 2Mbps with a minimum of 85 per cent superfast broadband at 24Mbps by 2015 and superfast broadband for all by 2020.

## Christmas tree recycle scheme grows - double from the start

**A LOCAL authority's Christmas tree recycling scheme continues to grow.**

East Devon District Council (EDDC) ran the scheme over four days from January 4th-7th, inviting householders to bring their Christmas tree to one of eight locations for recycling, free of charge.

The recycling locations were in Axminster, Broadclyst, Budleigh, Exmouth, Honiton, Ottery St Mary, Seaton and Sidmouth.

A total of 639 Christmas trees were received by EDDC staff and put through a wood chipper.

EDDC bosses say the number of trees received has doubled since the first year of operation, 2008.

The woodchip produced is composted at EDDC's depot in Sidmouth and will be used as a water-retaining, weed-suppressing mulch on shrubberies around the district in 2012.

Councillor Iain Chubb, EDDC's portfolio holder for environment, commented: "This is an example of useful recycling and I am delighted to see the people of east Devon embracing the initiative."

"Not only is it an excellent way for residents to get rid of their old trees, without having to travel far to do so, but it will also have a positive long-term impact on the environment."

"Following the launch of the scheme in 2008, more people have taken advantage of the facilities this year and eight towns and villages are now involved."

The location-by-location statistics are as follows, with last year's number of trees in brackets: Axminster 64 (44), Budleigh 57 (32), Honiton 60 (50), Ottery St Mary 87 (69), Exmouth 157 (138), Sidmouth 138 (128), Seaton 56 (53) Broadclyst 20 (this was the first year of participation).

**TIVERTON and Honiton MP Neil Parish believes that a Winter Damage Grant of £5million for road repairs would be suitable for Devon.**

During the last two years, Devon County Council (DCC) has received Winter Damage Grants totalling

## Devon needs £5million for its roads, MP Parish tells Government

£12.9million — £9.3 million last year and £3.6million the previous year.

The county council wrote to the Government asking for another grant this year.

But DCC didn't specify how much it would like.

MP Parish, however, feels £5million would be appropriate, and has told the Government so.

In a letter to The Rt Hon Justine

Greening MP, Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Parish wrote: "I believe that an additional £5million grant to spend in 2012-13 would allow Devon to target more rural roads and I have been informed by

DCC that with this additional funding they would expect to deliver around 400 schemes across Devon."

"It is vital to Devon's economy that the road network is kept in usable condition."

"The rural nature of Devon and the poor transport infrastructure means that driving is a necessity for many people who rely on the roads to access public services and local businesses."

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### Pie and a Pint Night

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Choose from...

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All with your choice of potato, peas or beans and a jug of the Beambridge's finest traditional roast gravy.

\*Pint of Carlsberg or Beambridge Flyer Ale, a 175ml Fraser's Bay Chenin Blanc or Pinotage or a medium postmix soft drink.



### Wednesday nights are Beambridge Banquet Nights

Our delicious, varied fresh hot and cold buffet banquet means something for everyone, so makes the perfect night out for friends and family!

Our banquet dishes vary each week according to availability- there's always something new. Please see our blackboards or ask us for this week's menu. At just

**£7.95** per guest, we advise early booking!



Thursday nights are

### Premier Grill Nights

Enjoy any two superb grills with a bottle of Raffine Sauvignon Blanc or Tempranillo wine for only

**£26.95** per couple

Grills include a classic 8oz Rump, Chargrilled Tuna Steak, 9oz Ribeye, Pork Lion Steak and even a massive Mixed Grill (for the seriously hungry!)

Please ask us for a copy of the complete menu and please book early to avoid disappointment.







# countrysceneextra

Written by countryside  
correspondent  
**TONY JACKSON**



# The estuary is awash with bird activity for all to see

**NOW, were you aware that February 14th was not only St Valentine's Day, but also the start of National Nest Box Week?**

To mark the occasion, a special workshop called Love your birds was held at the Healthy Living Centre in Hemyock.

The idea is to allow families to learn how to build nest boxes and to attract and feed birds in their gardens.

■ One of my regular correspondents, Alison Tottenham, has sent me a long email, touching on various topics, and badgers in particular.

She writes: "I thoroughly agree with your comments on the badger cull. At best it should be left to farmers and government

personnel/Natural England staff should be kept completely out of it".

She makes the point that TB normally strikes when badgers are "run down" and highly stressed, perhaps by over-crowding. Farmers should be allowed free rein to cull some of the huge setts, writes Alison.

"By which I do not mean kill all of them, but just a few across the age range, so gradually decreasing the breeding population to a size the locality can cope with".

Why on earth, wonders Alison, do we not simply vaccinate cattle? In addition, the strain of TB in cattle and badgers cannot infect humans.

Unfortunately, once government bureaucrats and pseudo-scientists become involved in issues affecting wildlife, farming and the countryside the end result is

invariably cack-handed and impractical!

■ News from the East Devon Branch of the Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society which recently met at Axmouth Harbour Bridge for a field meeting.

Amongst the species spotted by the 22 members was a red-throated diver, several great-crested grebes, a kingfisher, peregrine, sparrowhawk, linnets, fieldfares and two Mediterranean gulls amongst many others.

The wide variety of birds seen is a wonderful reflection on the success of the Axe Estuary Wetlands project. The marshes and surrounding area is now one of most important wildlife centres in the South-West.

A Winter Bird Festival was held on Saturday, February 25th at the Axe Estuary Wetland, starting with a bird

ringing breakfast at 8am. From 10am there were guides in the Island, Tower and Colyford Common hides to help visitors identify birds and pick up birdwatching tips from the experts.

There was also indoor art and craft activities to keep youngsters busy, including making bird feeders. Fraser Rush will be there also to discuss development of the Wetlands and to show plans for expansion of the nature reserve.

■ Are you a keen photographer? If so then why not take part in the Somerset Hedge Group's photographic competition for 2012?

With sponsorship from Somerset County Council, the Blackdown Hills AONB, the Council for the Protection of Rural England and Marshall Agroecology Ltd, the competition has generous cash

prizes for two classes — Open and Junior (under 15). The competition is intended for amateur photographers with a maximum of three digital entries per person. The closing date for entries is October 1, 2012.

Hedges in Somerset are, of course, the theme and there's a wide choice, from the lovely beech banks on Exmoor and the Blackdowns to the new hedges planted under Environmental Stewardship schemes and to ancient parish boundaries.

If you'd like to enter the competition go to [www.somerset-hedgegroup.org.uk](http://www.somerset-hedgegroup.org.uk) and print off an entry form.

Meanwhile, the sun is gleaming on dozens of snowdrops in my garden, daffodils are about to burst into colour and there is a feeling that

spring is almost upon us.

Soon my newly re-lined pond will receive its first oxygenating plants and, hopefully, within a few months will be attracting wild life in various forms.

Meanwhile, inspired by Sarah Raven's excellent TV programme on BBC 2, I also have plans to introduce into the garden as many insect attracting plants as possible to help with germination. It's going to be a busy year!

To contact Tony Jackson, write to: Country Scene, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD or by email to: [wardjackson@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:wardjackson@tiscali.co.uk)

*The views expressed are those of the columnist and not necessarily of the newspaper.*



## Guide to the Blackdown Hills Artisans

Find out the secrets going on behind closed doors.

Discover a world of local creativity.

From Bread to Ceramics ..

Salami to Sculptures

From Cider to Socks and

From Furniture to Fish Pâté!

the next Blackdown Hills Artisans' Trails are going to be on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th May, 2012. So we would like to hear from Artisans to join us and we would like everyone else to come and visit the Artisans that weekend!

**Copies of the guide are available at many local venues or visit [www.blackdownhills.co.uk](http://www.blackdownhills.co.uk) for more details.**

## March Events with the AONB

### Orienteering after dark :03 Mar 12

**Location: Castle Neroche**  
Time slots: Register 17.00-17.45, Start 18.00-18.45, Finish by 19.45  
Score points by visiting "controls"  
**£7 seniors (£5 members) / £10 (£8 families) / £2 junior / £1 dibber hire**  
Castle Neroche, TA20 3LB, signposted from ST265156  
Contact Chris Phillip 07779 293773

### Quantock Orienteers Spring Flower Special 11 Mar 12

**Location: Umberne Brook, Cotleigh**  
A delightful walk to discover wild daffodils and other spring flowers. Join botanist Dr David Allen to explore along the Umberne Brook as the countryside bursts into life after winter.  
2pm-4pm  
Cost: Adults £5, Under 18s £3.  
Booking essential.  
Location: Meet at bottom of the hill where there is some limited parking. Map ref: ST 212 021  
For more information: Contact the Blackdown Hills AONB office on 01823 680681 or email [blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk](mailto:blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk)

### Blackdown Hills AONB Neroche Conservation Volunteers 14 Mar 12

**Location: Varies by month - see Neroche website for details**  
[www.nerochescheme.org/](http://www.nerochescheme.org/)  
A practical volunteering day in the fresh air. Tasks vary through the year and include scrub cutting and path maintenance, all designed to help wildlife and keep areas accessible. Tasks take place on Forestry Commission and Somerset Wildlife Trust sites. All tools and instruction provided.  
9.30am-3pm  
Cost: Free. Booking required

### Neroche Managing woodland for woodfuel and wildlife

**14 March  
Location: Park Farm, Wellington**  
A day of information on all aspects of woodland management concentrating on the smaller owner/user, covering planting, measurement of volumes, conservation within the woods, pests & diseases, grants and more.  
10am-3.30pm  
Cost: £40 per person (£15 to members) to include a light lunch.  
Booking essential  
**Location: Park Farm, Wellington, TA21 9NP**  
For more information: Contact John Greenshields at [parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk](mailto:parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk) / 01823 660764.  
Further details at <http://www.woodbiz.co.uk/>  
Toilets on site



### Blackdown Hills and East Devon Woodland Association Circular walk from Membury to Dalwood 17 Mar 12

**Location: Membury village car park (start point)**  
8km/5 mile circular walk from Membury to Dalwood  
10am-12 noon  
Cost: Free  
Location (start point): Membury village car park. Map ref: ST 276030  
For more information: Contact Jo Bailey on 01404 881274  
Walk level: C

### Blackdown Hills Walking Group. A walk along a section of the

### Neroche Herepath Trail 21 Mar 12

**Location: Castle Neroche car park**  
A circular 6.5km/4 mile walk from the Iron Age hill fort of Castle Neroche via the village of Curland. Please note this route can be very muddy following rain.  
10am-1pm  
Cost: Free  
Location: Castle Neroche car park.  
Map ref: ST 272 156  
For more information:  
Contact Gill and Jim Thomas on 01404 861 406  
Walk level C



### Blackdown Hills Walking Group Neroche Conservation Volunteers at Young Wood 28 Mar 12 Location: Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine

A day at our new community woodland centre at Young Wood, finishing off the coppicing season and doing construction work on facilities for the woodland workshop site. All tools and instruction provided.  
9.30am-3pm  
Cost: Free. Booking required  
Location: Young Wood, Staple Fitzpaine (precise location details given on booking)  
For more information:  
To book a place please phone the Neroche office on 01823 680846, or email [info@nerochescheme.org](mailto:info@nerochescheme.org)  
For more details visit <http://www.nerochescheme.org/>  
No obstructions or barriers (eg steps or stiles)  
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[www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk](http://www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



# Leisure *Review*

Advertising sales: 01297 32601 [louise@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:louise@tindlenews.co.uk)

Editorial: 01297 631120 [blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk)

## WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

### FREE Leisure *Review* Diary Dates listing form

Date .....  
Event .....  
Time .....  
Venue .....  
Town/Village .....  
Organised by ..... Tel no .....

**Send your Diary Dates to:**

View from the Blackdown Hills, Tindle House, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD or email [blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk).

Please note: This is a free service and whilst we endeavour to include all entries, we cannot guarantee all listings submitted will be published. Please use one form per event.

WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE DIARY DATES LISTINGS OR QUERIES OVER THE PHONE  
Deadline for Diary Dates entries is on Fridays at 12 noon

**DEVON Wildlife Trust (DWT) has set the date for its Wildlife Festival.**

One of the county's premier green events will this year take place in the centre of Exeter and focus on the charity's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The festival will be held on Saturday, April 28th between 10am and 4pm on Cathedral Green.

There are already dozens of organisations signed up to take part including Pennywell Farm, South West Water, South West Lakes Trust and Wild Aid.

The event has been made possible by a generous donation from South West Water.

This year the event will be a chance for the charity to showcase its work in the city through the Exeter Wild City project along with a time for people to get involve in the charity's 50th celebrations.

Jo Pullin, DWT's event organiser, said: "This is the second time we have brought the Wildlife Festival to Exeter and with it being our 50th anniversary of DWT we are hoping to make it bigger and better than ever.

"Exeter is such a green city we aim to bring people closer to the wildlife around them on their doorstep.

"We are now in the process of looking for other similar minded organisations to get involved. We want all organisations to bring an exciting family focussed activity to make the event fabulous day out. If you love wildlife in Devon please do make a date with us."

For more information about the event, visit [www.devonwildlifetrust.org](http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org).

Anyone wanting to volunteer or have a stall at the event should contact Jo Pullin on 01392 279244.

## Diary dates

**Every Thursday**

**CHARD:** Zumba at The Guildhall, Chard. It's a combination of exciting unique latin moves and rhythms. It gives you a fun-based fitness workout. From 7.30pm until 8.30pm. For more information phone 07738 014409 or email [zumbasom@hotmail.com](mailto:zumbasom@hotmail.com).

**CHARD:** Chard Guildhall Antiques and Collectors Fair from 8 am. Free admission and a thriving fair with a good mix of regular and casual stallholders. Offering a fantastic range of good quality products. New stallholders always welcome. Contact 01460 239567 for more information.

**Every Tuesday**

**CHARD:** Slimming World at The Guildhall, Chard. Morning sessions at 9.30am and 11.30am. Please phone Jenny on 01460 61786. Evening sessions at 5.30pm and 7.30pm. Please phone Charlie on 07790935647.

**Send details of your Blackdown Hills events by using the form or email us at [blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk)**

**A Great Day Out for ALL the Family!**

## AXE VALE FESTIVAL

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> & Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>  
JUNE 2012**



**[www.axevalefestival.org.uk](http://www.axevalefestival.org.uk)**

Registered Charity No. 1130829

## "Skills of the Hills"

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

**at Lower Shelvin Farm, Luppitt, EX14 4UF**

**The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Hedgelaying and Hedgerow Crafts in the Blackdown Hills.**

- Hedgelaying Competition
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For more information visit our web site: [www.bhha.info](http://www.bhha.info)



**THE BLACKDOWN HILLS HEDGE ASSOCIATION**



# Local Produce Markets

## Blackdown Hills

Taunton Town Centre 4th Saturday of Month  
Val Baker Tel: 01823 681484 Mobile: 07711366885

## Taunton Farmers Market

Every Thursday 9am to 3pm in the High Street

## Dunkeswell Farmers Market

2nd Saturday of each month at Throgmorton Hall 10 am-midday

## Wellington Farmers Market

1st & 3rd Saturday in Castle Hall 9am-1pm

## Yarcombe Village Market

2nd Saturday 10am to 12 noon in Village Hall

## Hemyock

Heather Stallard 3rd Sat of Month Tel: 01823 680237

## Stockland

Last or 5th Sat of month Monica Paris Tel: 01404 881 535

## Churchinford

1st Sat of Month Nick Strange Tel: 01823 601565

Add your local market to our list!  
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For further details or to make an appointment to view please  
telephone Joanne 01297 553094 or Jerry 07919 992300

**In Business  
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**Thurs 8th March 2012**  
Drop in between **4pm to 8pm**

Bicton College, East Budleigh EX9 7BY

**Free entry & local produce buffet**

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**Come and talk to local businesses & organisations who will be exhibiting on the day**

**You can also hear about the business opportunities at Exeter & East Devon Growth Point**

**To book you FREE place register at**  
<http://inbusinessatbicton.eventbrite.co.uk>  
**or t: 01823 681484**  
**or e: [info@bhba.org.uk](mailto:info@bhba.org.uk)**



To exhibit, please contact Val Baker at the BHBA & AEDCC on 01823 681484 or email [info@bhba.org.uk](mailto:info@bhba.org.uk)

Supporting Local Business with a Local Manager. To find out how Lloyd's TSB Commercial can help your business call Trevor Brooks Commercial Relationship Manager at Honiton on 07912 798353 or visit [www.lloydstsb.co.uk/supportingukbusiness](http://www.lloydstsb.co.uk/supportingukbusiness)

### Advertisers announcement

Want to grow your business? Need any business advice? Want to start a business?

Want to buy local products and services? Want to network with fellow business people? Want to sample a local produce buffet?!

If so, you are invited to attend In Business at Bicton. The event will be: informative, as presentations will provide you with tips on a range of support including: how to start your business, grow your business, how to take on an apprentice and much more...

The event will also provide you with the opportunity to network with fellow businesses and promote your business. Don't forget to bring business cards with you.

The event will provide you with the opportunity to sample local produce from local producers from 5.30pm

Come along and find out more about opportunities at the Exeter and East Devon Growth Point - there will be a presentation between 5pm and 5.30pm.

Entry is FREE, FREE local produce buffet will be served from 5.30pm, FREE expert-led taster workshops. Take advantage of FREE taster workshops giving tips and advice delivered by local experts and organisations. Workshops booked so far include: Becoming Self-Employed - Jane Holden HMRC, Tendering for Contracts, Quality & Environmental Management Systems - Help for SMEs Ltd, Social Media - Cosmic Ethical IT, Tim Pitcher Transformational Coaching & Consulting and much more...

FREE advice. Consult with local experts and advisers on a range of topics on a one-to-one basis.

At the IDEA stage of business?

You are welcome to attend even if you are just at the idea stage of setting up in business. You might be looking for advice on how to go about starting up.

**Are you an Artisan in the East Devon or in the Blackdown Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty?**

**If so, please read on...**

If you think you fit the description of an artisan i.e. skilled craftsman/woman or specialist food producers, we would like to hear from you.

Thanks to funding secured from the East Devon AONB SDF Fund, we are producing a leaflet to promote the talent tucked away in our two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Blackdown Hills and East Devon. We are inviting local artisans to take part in an open weekend on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2012. During this weekend our artisans will open the doors of their workshops and studios to the public. Members of the BHBA will pay £25 for an advert and non-members will pay £50 to join the BHBA and £25 for an advert. The A3 folded leaflet will have a circulation of over 9,000 throughout the area. 9,000 flyers will be circulated advertising the May open weekend.

For more information, please contact Val Baker at the Blackdown Hills Business Association [www.bhba.org.uk](http://www.bhba.org.uk) or t: 01823 681484.





# Get ready, spring is coming...

## Spring clean and spruce up the house and Garden



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## These prickly creatures are great and small

It might not be a good idea to get too close - but two animal charities are asking as many people as possible to get involved in a big hedgehog study. Numbers of the prickly fellas are thought to be dropping, and experts want to find out how climate change might be affecting hedgehogs.

Hedgehogs hibernate and it's thought that warmer temperatures mean they emerge from their winter sleep earlier. So now you can help by recording when they are first spotted where you live.

A big survey was first done in the UK forty years ago - and that discovered hedgehogs' hibernation was affected by the temperature.

Back in the 1950s there were a whopping 30 million hedgehogs in the UK, but move forward 45 years to 1995 and that number is down to just 1.5 million.

It's probably dropped a lot further since then, too. A lot of this is to do with the countryside where they live being replaced by houses and buildings, but scientists want to know if a rise in temperature could have lowered numbers as well.

To record any hedgehogs you spot this spring, you can head online to the British Hedgehog Preservation Society's Hibernation Survey.

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clothing, bric a brac and all other usable household items.

A percentage of all funds raised from Recycling is donated to your chosen Charities.

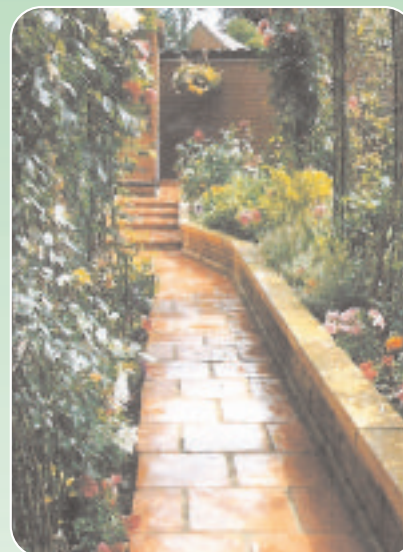
House clearance service is also available. As is Free local collection.



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Greg Sluman

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# Small changes now will see a restful summer

**GET those jobs done with a little help from DIY guru Julia Gray.**

Summer seems a long way off as we battle with the cooler months but start planning now, and you'll be all set for warmer weather when it arrives.

#### Product choice

You won't get far DIYing without good paintbrushes, and they don't come much better than Dulux's. They're comfortable to hold (even for a long time), quick and easy to clean, and produce a really good finish - the bristles are split to minimise visible brush

marks. The bristles are also long and firm, making it easy to do precision work. The brushes come in two ranges - Perfect Finish ones (from £3.79), which are flat, and Perfect Edges ones (from £4.99), which are triangular and should be held like a pen to give greater control.

The brushes are even designed to be laid flat without the bristles picking up dirt and they have a built-in paint-tin opener, so you don't have to waste time looking for a screwdriver or chisel - brilliant! For more information, visit [www.dulux.co.uk](http://www.dulux.co.uk)

#### How-to tip

Extruded polymer (like polystyrene) coving may seem like the poor relation to plaster or resin coving, but once fitted, filled and painted, it looks just like the real thing. Best of all, it's a lot cheaper and easier to put up - just use grab-and-grip or coving adhesive - and it comes in period (try the Easycove Regency Room Kit, £29.48, B&Q) as well as modern designs. Double-fill the joints with flexible filler or decorator's caulk, but be careful not to paint emulsion thickly over it, as it will crack.



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instance, put open-fronted nestboxes low down and hide them well in vegetation to attract robins and wrens.

It is important to clean out your nestboxes during the winter every year. This will prevent a build up of debris and remove parasites such as fleas. If you put in a handful of clean hay or wood shavings, birds may use it as a winter roost.

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## IT'S ALL IN THE DETAIL



**A**S reputations go, McLaren's is pretty much as good as it gets. Unlike most of its counterparts McLaren has created road car projects following on from its daily grid at the front of the F1 grid, not the other way round. And the only other road car in its back catalogue is the F1; a £634,000 all-carbon missile built without compromise, a car that cracked 240mph and held several world records - including the title of the world's fastest production car - for over a decade.

Only now have the final production-specification cars reached the road, and the prospect of road car project number two is a hugely enticing one when you understand that it was designed and is built with the same near-fetishist attention to detail that goes into its racing cars. As a simple example, one of the many weight-saving measures is the use of wiring that is hexagonal in cross section rather than round; that saves you 4kgs.

But the most important measure is the carbonfibre chassis or MonoCell in McLaren-speak. They claim a saving of 75kgs over a comparable aluminium structure, and what that does for strength too is massive; you can actually drive a bodiless chassis as all the panels bar the roof have no bearing on the car's integrity.

That body is a thing of functional beauty however, and rather than grabbing attention for the sake of it you can see why there are scoops, vents and curves where they need to be. The rear wing is discreet when it is stowed, it pops up only when needed (or if you want the extra downforce) or when it is acting as an air brake. It doesn't follow fashion, it follows function, and it appeals to the head and the heart as a result.

You get the same impression from the snug cockpit. There's a low-key centre console (even though everything is beautifully finished) with a slick touchscreen panel in the centre that takes care of most functions. The view out is superb, and the driving position gets you in the mood, particularly the gearshift paddle which is actually one piece across the back of wheel - just like in the F1 cars.

Finger the starter button and the McLaren-designed 3.8-litre twin-turbocharged V8 fires up quickly and with a characterful blare - forget anything you've heard about it being too quiet - and with the automated transmission in D it rumbles away with total ease. Sedate driving on local roads shows that the MP4-12C can do comfortable and quiet. The Active Dynamics Panel is a pair of switches on

the centre console, one for Power and one for Handling. With them all turned down the ride is tightly controlled but comfortable and the engine is aurally present but doesn't disturb. You notice the easy torque available with just the lightest brush of the throttle and the measured, consistent response from the steering, but beautifully judged; it's possible to forget for a moment that you're driving something capable of over 200mph which is exactly what you need should you be lucky enough to drive one every day.

But some track action is the only way to find out what the McLaren can really do, and handily McLaren arranged some laps around the Top Gear test track at Dunsfold. Even with everything still switched to its lowest setting, the MP4-12C attacks the straights and bends with vigour. In a straight line the performance is delivered with silken brutality, a purposeful roar from the exhaust and each gearchange firing through in a fraction of a second.

Instead of traditional anti-roll bars the MP4-12C has adaptive damping, but this is much more than the marketing gimmick you find on some cars. Roll is remarkably absent regardless of the setting yet the ride comfort never diminishes. Turn everything up to Track mode and the unmuffled roar from the engine sounds borderline illegal, the gearchanges snap through even quicker and the body remains incredible composed and level however hard you push.

And you will push hard, because the MP4-12C is working hard to help you out. It has a brake steer system that applies measure braking pressure to an inside wheel as you enter a bend. You can feel it working but at no point do you feel that the car is doing all the work for you, instead you're just left feeling like a hero and that you've extracted every possible ounce of performance from the car.

This is not a car for everyone, aside from the sticker price. It doesn't shout about its performance, it doesn't have the outrageous curves of a concept car to attract impressionable young ladies and it does the boring everyday stuff extremely well. And yet when you decide to exploit all it has to offer it displays a monumental ability to flatter and thrill the driver whilst simply demolishing the most challenging of roads. This is a car that will keep on giving, years after you've signed on the dotted line. Above all, it's a car for and by those who really understand what driving is all about.



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<b>£315pcm UF</b> <b>STUDIO FLAT</b> Separate Bathroom and Kitchen. Electric Heating.	<b>£325pcm UF</b> <b>2 x STUDIO FLATS</b> Sea views. Separate Bathroom and Kitchen. Electric Heating.	<b>£480pcm UF</b> <b>3rd FLOOR FLAT</b> Extensive views. 1-Bed. white goods. Shower Facility. Electric Heating.
<b>£530pcm UF</b> <b>BEER</b> <b>FIRST FLOOR FLAT</b> 2-bed. Open Plan Kitchen and Living area. Built-in Electric Oven and Hob. Gas CH.	<b>£560pcm UF</b> <b>BRANSCOMBE COTTAGE</b> 2-bed. 2 recpetions. Electric Heating. Private garden.	<b>£560pcm PF</b> <b>BUNGALOW</b> Easy Maintenance Garden. Shed. Driveway Parking.
<b>£695pcm UF</b> <b>SEMI-DETACHED COTTAGE</b> 3-bed. Cloakroom. Free-standing Electric Cooker. Shower Facility. Gas CH. Enclosed Rear Garden. Shed. Garage. Allocated Parking.		<b>£920pcm UF</b> <b>DETACHED HOUSE</b> 3-bed. Recent Refurbishment. First Floor Lounge / Kitchen with Views. Some White Goods. Gas CH. Rear Garden. Garage. Parking.

### COLYTON

<b>£1200pcm UF</b> <b>BARN CONVERSION WITH SUPERB VIEWS</b> 4-Bed (one ground floor with En-Suite Bathroom). Some integrated white goods. Wood burner. Decking to front of property with Hot-Tub. Garden with lawn and mature herbaceous shrubs. Parking.
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## Residential Lettings



### STAPLE FITZPAINE

4 Bedroom UP character attached house in a popular village location is let on 6/12 months plus tenancy. Sitting room, study, kitchen/diner, utility, family bathroom and en suite, O.F.C.H. Garden and parking. Pets/children considered. LET AGREED. Taunton office 01823 447305.

£995pcm

Web ref: 32549



### PAYHEMBURY

3 Bedroom UP spacious detached house situated within the popular village. Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, breakfast room and bathroom. Parking and gardens. O.F.C.H. No Pets. Children Considered. Available immediately. Taunton office 01823 447305.

£850pcm

Web ref: 34121



### LUPPITT

5 Bedroom UP extremely spacious detached house with superb views over the Otter valley. Sitting room, dining room, kitchen/diner, utility, 3 bedrooms, gardens and parking. O.F.C.H. No Dogs. Cats/Children Considered. Available immediately. Taunton office 01823 447305.

£1,350pcm

Web ref: 34230

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### MEMBURY

2 Bedrooms UP recently refurbished detached cottage in superb elevated rural position. Sitting room, kitchen/diner, bathroom and bedroom. Ample parking and good sized garden. EN34. Double glazed. Pets/children considered. Long term. Available Beginning of April. Taunton office 01823 447305.

£950pcm

Web ref: 45241



### BRADFORD ON TONE

3 Bedrooms UP charming and well presented cottage in popular village location. 2 Reception, kitchen, and bathroom. O.F.C.H. Courtyard garden with water feature and specimen plants. Pets considered. Available immediately. Taunton office 01823 447305.

£750pcm

Web ref: 32549



### UFFCULME

1/2 Bedroom UP attractive newly renovated stone built cottage at edge of village, in spectacular rural setting. Open plan living space with woodburner and fireplace, site of original laundry room. Spectacular views. EN 34. No Children. 1 Pet Considered. LET AGREED. Taunton office 01823 447305.

£600pcm

Web ref: 58117



### LOWTON

2 Bedroom UP beautifully converted attached barn conversion with pleasant views over the surrounding countryside. Open plan kitchen/living area, bedroom, utility and bathroom. Garden and parking. O.F.C.H. Pets/children considered. LET AGREED. Taunton office 01823 447305.

£775pcm

Web ref: 58891



### CRADDOCK

1 Bedroom UP superbly presented apartment situated in a pleasant rural location. Open plan kitchen/dining room and bath room. Communal laundry room. Parking. Rent inc. of heating, hot water, water & drainage. Ideally suit professional/single person, no pets/children. Available immediately.

£550pcm

Web ref: 56265



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**COTLEIGH** **2.2 Acres**  
A delightful 1930s detached property, situated in an elevated private setting, enjoying countryside views. Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms. Gardens with several outbuildings, stables and a garage. Paddocks and stream frontage. Ref: 48648

Guide price £595,000

Honiton Office 01404 45885



**NR HEMYOCK** **1 Acre**  
A well presented farmhouse with attached stone barns in an idyllic rural location with stunning views. 2 receptions, kitchen/breakfast room, 4 bedrooms, E/S and family bathroom. Utility, study and store. Outbuildings, gardens and grounds. Ref: 44580

Guide price £499,000

Honiton Office 01404 45885



**WELLINGTON** **Upto 5 Acres**  
A beautiful green oak framed barn conversion set in private grounds including Linhay garage and workshop with option to purchase adjoining 5 acres of parkland with large agricultural building/stable/workshop Ref: 42935

Guide price £495,000

Wellington Office 01823 662822



**CULMSTOCK** **0.36 Acres**  
A spacious & intriguing village property with annexe potential. Sitting room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, study/reception room, 3 bedrooms, E/S & bathroom. Stone double garage/workshop and stables. Large gardens & parking. Ref: 18479

Guide price £418,000

Honiton Office 01404 45885



**UFFCULME** **0.36 Acres**  
A spacious double fronted detached village house and former coach house in need of modernisation set within gardens of approximately 0.36 acres. For Sale by Public Auction on Thursday 29th March 2012 Ref: 50159

For auction £275,000 to £300,000

Wellington Office 01823 662822



**UPOTTERY**  
An attractive 17th Century thatched cottage set in the centre of a popular village. Farmhouse style kitchen, 4 double bedrooms, 3 reception rooms, 2 bathrooms & 2 e/s, Garage & utility. Cottage style gardens & parking. Suitable for dual occupation. Ref: 40023

Guide price £485,000

Honiton Office 01404 45885



**BLACKBOROUGH**  
A spacious and well appointed four bedroom attached country house offering versatile accommodation and set within attractive gardens with ample parking and detached double garage Ref: 17392

Guide price £425,000

Wellington Office 01823 662822



**NR WELLINGTON**  
11.80 Acres of Pasture Land (in two lots) - 6.56 Acres & 5.24 Acres. Good road frontage. Mains water supply. Outstanding panoramic views. For sale by public auction on the 29th March 2012. Ref: 51060

For auction £30,000 to £42,000

Wellington Office 01823 662822

## RURAL PROPERTY CONSULTANCY

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For advice and assistance on a variety of issues including:

- ☐ Valuations
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